

[032] The epoxy coating 6 acts as a water and moisture barrier to the extent that it does not need to be protected from weathering. However, the metal-foil strip 7 is applied to the side-edges of the panel to afford protection in this regard to the polyester coating 2, and to its interface with the glass surface 3 and coating 6. The foil strip 7, which has a thickness of 80 - 100 μm and is in the form of self-adhesive tape, is wrapped round the panel to adhere to the four side edges and also in overlap throughout its longitudinal margins 8 and 9, to the surfaces 10 and 11 respectively. The width of the margin 8 is 6 mm or less, whereas the width of the margin 9 is within the range of 100 - 150 mm, but is preferably substantially 125 mm, i.e., the width of the margin 9 is greater than the width of the margin 8. The purpose of the large-width margin 9 is to ensure that there is efficient conduction of heat from the central region of the panel to its outer edges, making the panel safe from thermal stress. This has the advantage that it is possible to use annealed, float glass for the sheet 1 in circumstances, for example in an outside architectural context, where the thermal stress experienced by the panel would allow only toughened (alternatively known as 'heat-strengthened') glass to be used.